



SPAWN®

HINE

HABERLIN

VAN DYKE

THE MONSTER IN THE BUBBLE: PART 1



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SPAWN.COM

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PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN:

Al Simmons was a hit man for the US government until his C.O. Jason Wynn, betrayed him and a mysterious assassin ended Al's life. At the moment of death, Al was offered a deal by the demon Malebolgia and returned to Earth as Spawn, a creature with supernatural powers born in Hell.

As Armageddon consumed the world, Spawn turned against his masters, destroying all life on Earth. While God and Satan continue their endless conflict in a parallel universe, Spawn has re-created the world and resurrected the human race in what has become known as the White Light. The portals to Heaven and Hell are closed, leaving humanity free from the influence of angels and demons. Or so he believes...

After a reunion with his brother, Richard, Al's long-buried memories are beginning to resurface and it seems the mysterious creature known as Mammon has been manipulating Al Simmons since he was a child. When he returns to his parent's home, Al's father tells him Mammon's influence stretches back even further. He gives the journal of his great-grandfather, Henry Simmons, a journal that carries a dire warning for future generations. The Simmons bloodline tainted and Al's mother has been in league with Mammon, the man she knew as Malefick, since before his birth, marrying Al's father for the sole purpose of breeding this generation's Hellspawn.





EIGHTEEN HOURS AGO.

TWO
HUNDRED
YEARS!!

MAMMON HAS BEEN SCREWING WITH MY FAMILY FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS!

THE SIMMONS' HOME.

IF I HAD WARNED YOU--IF I HAD SHOWN YOU MY GRANDFATHER'S JOURNAL LIKE I WAS SUPPOSED TO, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU.

I'D GIVE MY LIFE TO GO BACK-

-YOU SHOULD BE PROUD. OUR SON WAS CHOSEN TO BE HONORED ABOVE ALL MEN...

HONORED??!

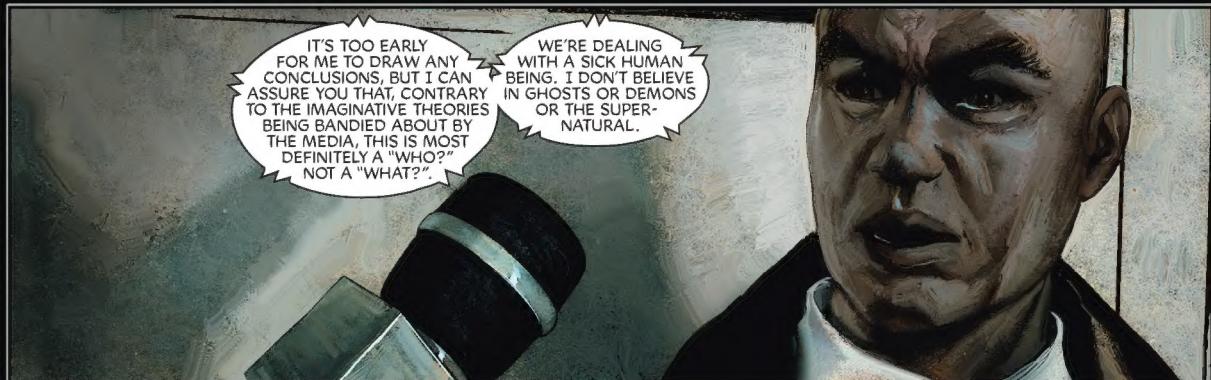
MY GRANDFATHER WAS AN HONORABLE MAN. HE WOULD RATHER HAVE DIED THAN BECOME WHAT I AM.

MARC?

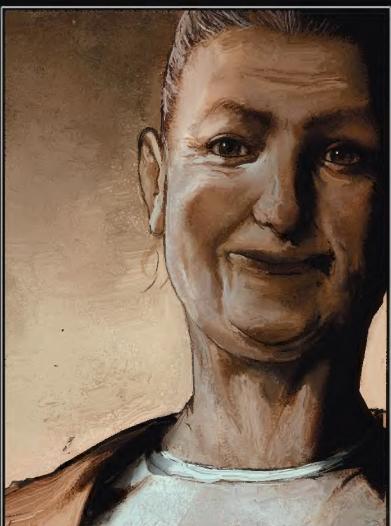
MARC SAW MAMMON FOR WHAT HE WAS, RIGHT FROM THE START.

MARC WAS THE BEST OF US.









SEATTLE. THE APARTMENT OF JAVIER MARTINEZ, DECEASED.

WE BAGGED MARTINEZ IN 39 SEPARATE PIECES.

ANYTHING MISSING?

WE DON'T KNOW YET. PATHOLOGY IS STITCHING HIM BACK TOGETHER AS WE SPEAK.

IT COULD TAKE A WHILE.



FROM THE APARTMENT, DETECTIVE, WAS ANYTHING TAKEN FROM THE APARTMENT?

THERE'S INTERRUPTION OF SPLATTER MARKS THAT SUGGESTS SOMETHING WAS REMOVED FROM THIS SHELF.



THE APARTMENT WAS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE, DOOR AND WINDOWS. NO SIGNS OF FORCED ENTRY. NO OBVIOUS METHOD OF EGRESS. CLASSIC LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY.

THERE'S A LOT OF MUCUS AROUND THE PLACE TOO. I'D GUESS NOT OF HUMAN ORIGIN.



ACCORDING TO THIS, JAVIER MARTINEZ TOOK SECOND PLACE IN THE TOKYOBLAST RISING TALENT MANGA COMPETITION.

THESE MURDERS WERE ONLY OFFICIALLY LINKED TODAY. OUR DATA ISN'T CO-ORDINATED YET.

GODAMMIT! ALL THREE VICS WERE AWARD WINNERS IN THIS COMPETITION. WHY DIDN'T ANYONE SPOT THIS?

GIVE US A BREAK, DOC. WE DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO ALL THOSE FANCY COMPUTER DATA BASES YOU GOT OUT THERE AT QUANTICO.



WELL, GOD BLESS THE INTERN-

-UH?

YOU GOOGLED THEM?

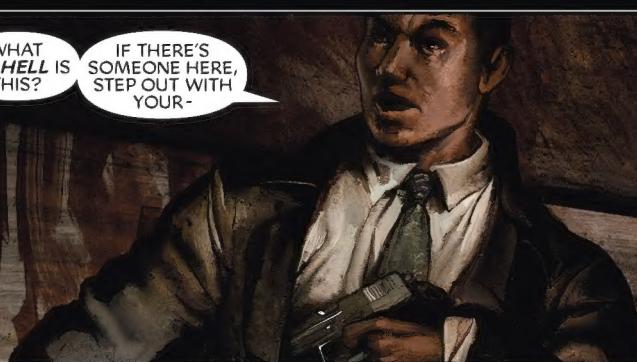
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WITNESS-- HAVE TO QUESTION A WITNESS



WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

IF THERE'S SOMEONE HERE, STEP OUT WITH YOUR-





HELLO,
MARC.



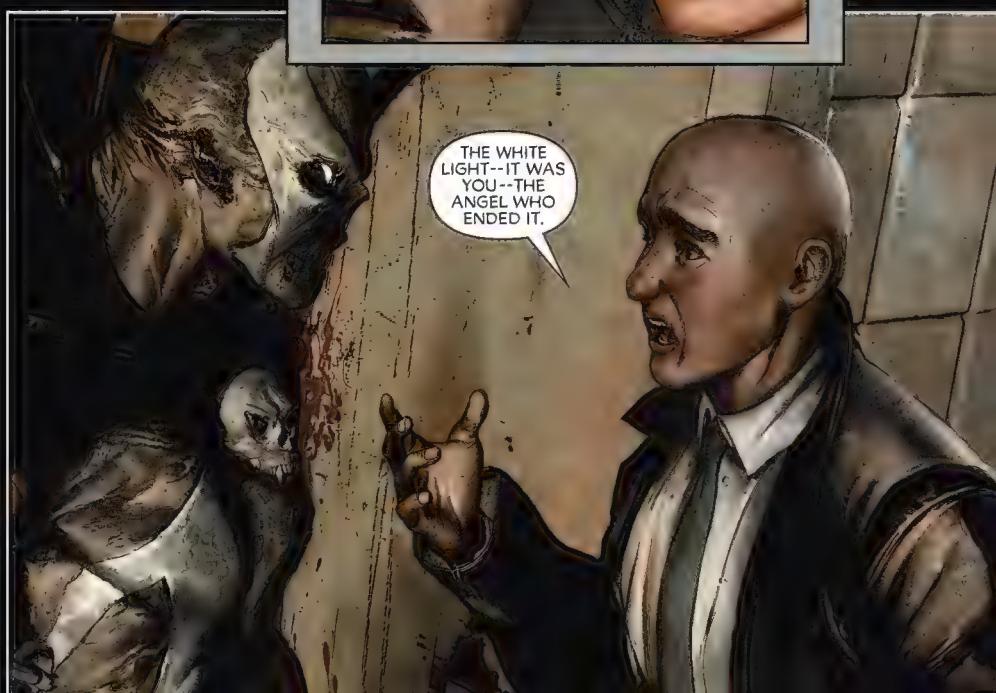
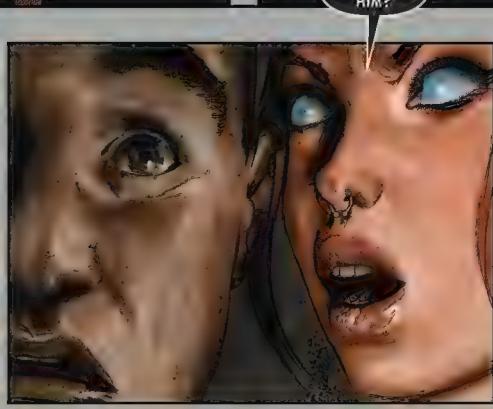
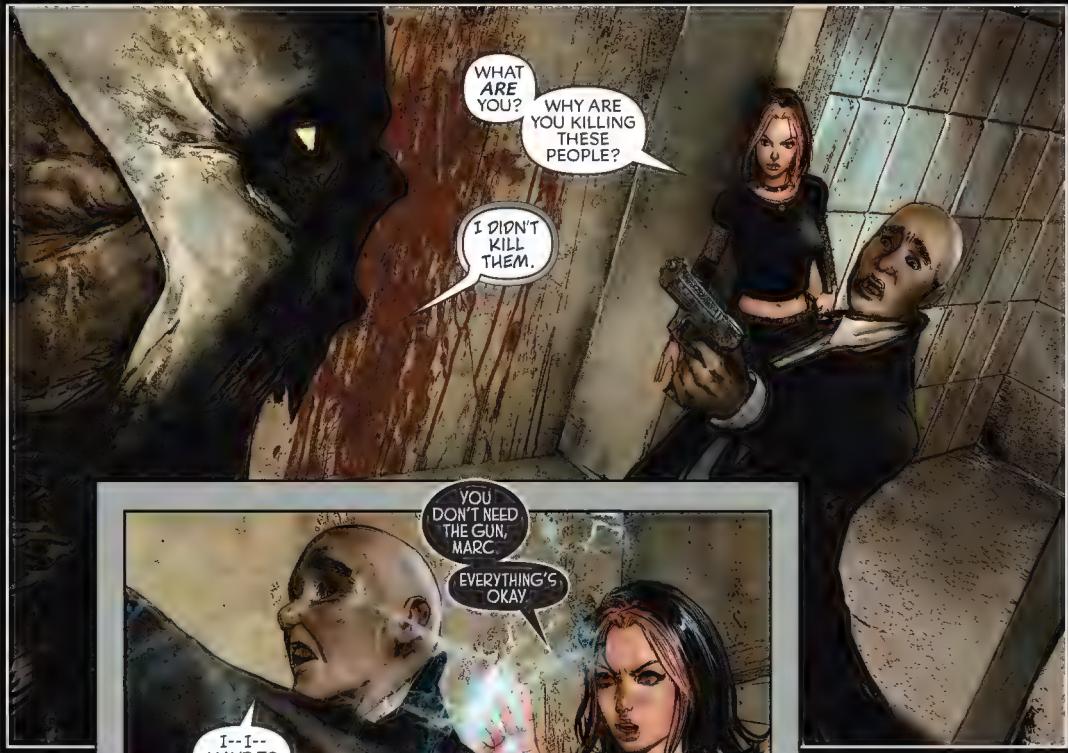
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!



BLAM!
BLAM!



AREN'T
YOU SUPPOSE
TO ISSUE A
WARNING
BEFORE YOU
DO THAT?





LET'S
SEE HOW
GOOD
YOU ARE,
MARC.

DO
YOUR
JOB.

FIND THE
KILLER.

THE KILLER--
RIGHT! LET'S GET THIS
SONOFABITCH--

SAMMY?
MARC.

WE HAVE A LINK.
ALL THREE VICS WON
A COMIC BOOK ART
COMPETITION. THE WEB
SITE LISTS TWO OTHER
WINNERS. THEY'LL
NEED 24-HOUR
PROTECTION.

AND I NEED
A LIST OF WHO
ENTERED THE
COMPETITION AND LOST.

HAS
TO BE
ONE OF-

-YEAH, YOU
GOT IT? OH YOU'RE
KIDDING ME! FIVE
THOUSAND?!

I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT
MANY PEOPLE
EVEN READ
COMICS.

IF THE
DETECTIVE WAS
RIGHT AND THE KILLER
TOOK SOMETHING
FROM HERE, PERHAPS
I CAN FIND HIM WITH
A SIMPLE RETRIEVAL
SPELL.

EARTH, AIR,
WATER, FIRE, HELP
ME FIND WHAT I
DESIRE.

EUREKA.

MOUNT PLEASANT
HOSPITAL, PORTLAND.

THIS IS
RIDICULOUS! IT'S
RIDICULOUS AND
OFFENSIVE!

DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA WHAT IT
MEANS TO SUFFER
FROM EXTREME
COMBINED IMMUNO-
DEFICIENCY?



YEAH, I
LOOKED
IT UP.

IT'S NOT
GOOD.

YET YOU STILL
INSIST THAT KENNETH ERSKINE
IS A SUSPECT. THAT HE SOME-
HOW TRAVELED 150 MILES TO
SEATTLE, COMMITTED A
BRUTAL MURDER-

-I DIDN'T
SAY THAT,
BUT WE DO
HAVE EVIDENCE
THAT POINTS TO HIS
HAVING SOME
KNOWLEDGE
OF THE
MURDERS.



KENNETH
HASN'T SET FOOT
OUTSIDE HIS ISOLATOR
SINCE HE WAS SIX
MONTHS OLD. FOR
SEVENTEEN YEARS HE
HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY
MONITORED.

ISOLATION

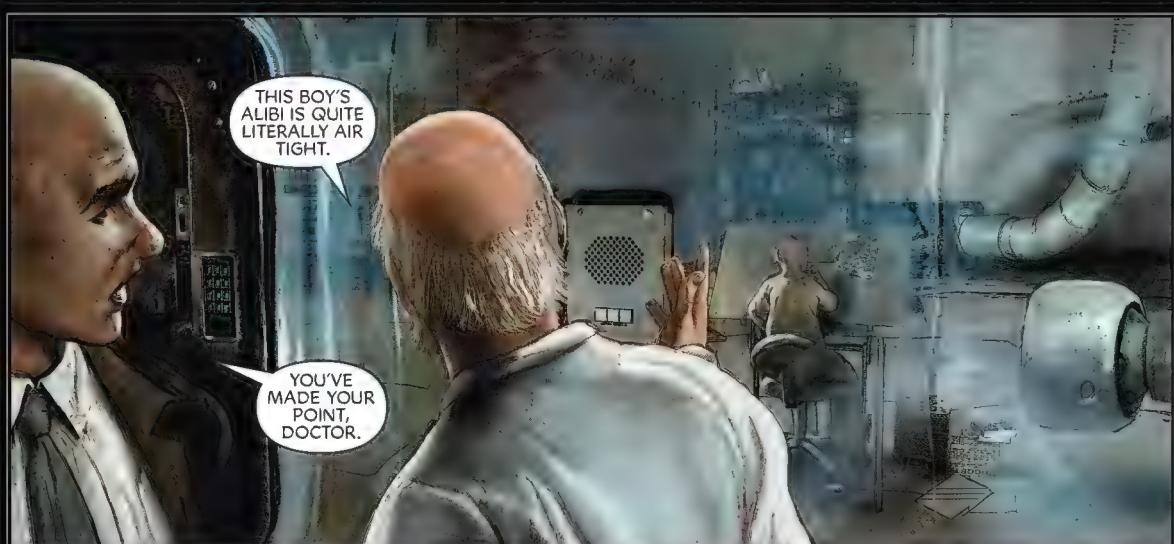
HE IS SO
SUSCEPTIBLE TO
BACTERIA THAT
CONTACT WITH
ANOTHER HUMAN
BEING WOULD
KILL HIM.

CONTACT
WITH
UNFILTERED AIR
WOULD KILL
HIM.



THIS BOY'S
ALIBI IS QUITE
LITERALLY AIR
TIGHT.

YOU'VE
MADE YOUR
POINT,
DOCTOR.





THOUSANDS
OF PEOPLE ENTERED
THAT COMPETITION. I'M
REALLY INTERESTED TO
KNOW HOW YOU CAME UP
WITH **MY** PROFILE.

YOU'VE GOT A
KILLER WHO TRAVELS
ACROSS HALF THE COUNTRY,
RIPS PEOPLE INTO PIECES
AND THEN ESCAPES FROM
A LOCKED ROOM ON THE
FIFTH FLOOR.

NOW WHO
COULD THAT
BE?

OH, I
KNOW-

THE CRIPPLED
KID WHO'S NEVER
WALKED MORE THAN TEN
YARDS FROM WHERE
HE'S STANDING IN HIS
ENTIRE LIFE!!

BRILLIANT
DEDUCTION,
SHERLOCK.

Ba-da-
ba-da-
Ba-da

EXCUSE
ME, I HAVE TO
TAKE THIS.

SAMMY,
WHAT DO
YOU HAVE?

I'VE TALKED
TO THE PEOPLE
AT TOKYOBLAST. WE
HAVE ADDRESSES FOR
THE TWO SURVIVING
COMPETITION
WINNERS-

--KIMBERLEY
MANSON AND BUD
HOSER. THERE ARE
AGENTS ON THE WAY
TO THEM.

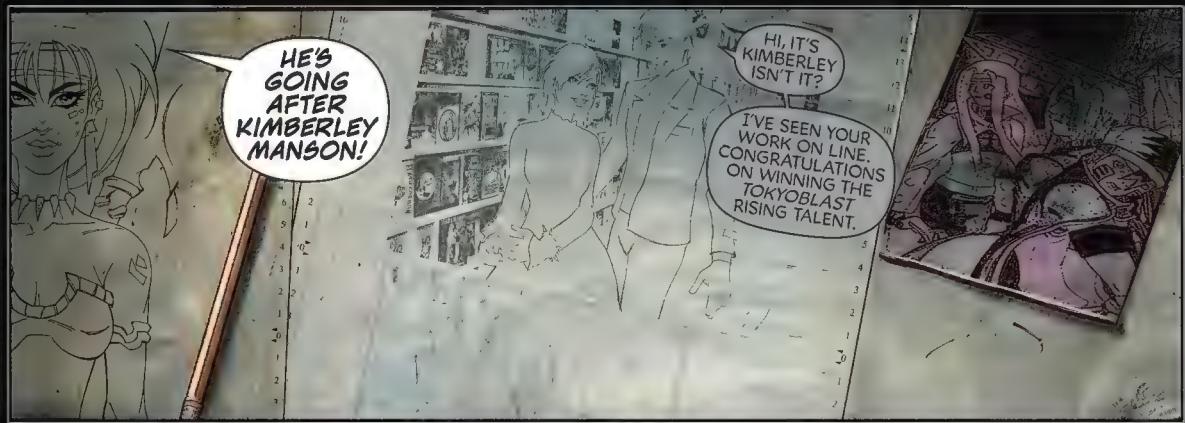
WHAT
ABOUT
KENNETH
ERSKINE?

HIS STORY IS
ABOUT A DISABLED BOY
WHOSE LATENT PARANORMAL
ABILITIES ARE TRIGGERED BY
THE WHITE LIGHT.

HE CREATES
PSYCHIC PROJECTIONS
THAT HE SENDS OUT TO DO
ALL THE THINGS HE CAN'T
DO HIMSELF.

IT GETS
KIND'A R-RATED
AFTER THAT.

THEY
COULDN'T
USE IT.



IS THIS
STRANGE
ENOUGH FOR
YOU?

AND BY
THE WAY, DID I
TELL YOU HOW
MUCH I HATE
YOUR CRAPPY
MANGA?

AIEEEEEE

beep--
HI, KIMBERLEY
IS WORKING,
OR SLEEPING, OR
SHOPPING, OR
WHATEVER--
TALK OR
HANG UP--

KIMBERLEY,
THIS IS DETECTIVE
JAMES REILLY. I NEED
TO SPEAK TO YOU URGENTLY.
I'M DOWNSTAIRS RIGHT
NOW, SO IF YOU'RE THERE,
I WANT YOU TO PICK UP
THE PHONE AND THEN
LET US IN.





SCORE
ONE FOR
MARC! HE WAS
RIGHT ABOUT
ERSKINE.

WHA-?
WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?

LET HER GO,
KENNETH.

SO YOU
WANT ME
TO LET
HER GO?

NO
PROBLEM!

I'M
YOUR
WORST
NIGHTMARE,
KENNETH.
I PROTECT
PEOPLE
FROM
SCUM
LIKE YOU.









TAKE A
GOOD LOOK,
ASS-
HOLE!



YOU
COULDN'T
EVEN SAVE
ONE LITTLE
GIRL!



NEXT MONTH: THE SHOCKING CONCLUSION TO 'THE MONSTER IN THE BUBBLE.'



EMPIRE

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